



Supporting Underserved Populations by Placing Our Resources in Trusts (SUPPORT) for Mental Health Act

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Background

- The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated the underinvestment in mental health care in our country.
- According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control, during the height of the pandemic anxiety and depression symptoms were three to four times higher than a year prior. About 13% of respondents said they have turned to substance abuse. One in four Americans between 18 and 24 years old say they've considered suicide in the past month because of the pandemic.¹
- Recent COVID-19 relief spending bills have created hundreds of billions of dollars in funds that have yet to be committed.
- Our country needs a robust investment into mental healthcare – unobligated COVID relief funds provide an opportunity to do this in a significant way.

Legislation

- The SUPPORT for Mental Health Act would allow states, territories, and tribes to use funds provided for COVID-19 relief to create a trust fund to support State and Tribal-based mental and behavioral health.
- Expanding the flexibility of already-appropriated COVID relief funds is a straightforward, common-sense approach to addressing the mental health needs of our nation.

For questions or to cosponsor, please contact

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¹ Czeisler MÉ , Lane RI, Petrosky E, et al. Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, June 24–30, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:1049–1057. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6932a1external icon>